

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A method of call processing comprising:  
receiving, at a softswitch executing on a computer, a plurality of calls for switching. The method  
of Claim 1, wherein the computer has includes a processing system and a memory, and the softswitch has  
a plurality of signaling subsystems;  
monitoring at least one criterion associated with operation of the computer, and wherein the at  
least one criteria criterion is selected from the group consisting of comprises the amount of usage of at  
least a portion of the processing system, the amount of usage of the memory, and the number of the  
plurality of calls that are being processed by each of the plurality of subsystems, or any combination  
thereof; and  
based on the monitoring, limiting the number of calls processed by the computer.
- 3-5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 2, and further comprising limiting the number of calls in response to determining that the amount of usage of the memory exceeds approximately 80-85% of the capacity of the memory.
7. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 2, and further comprising limiting the number of calls in response to determining the amount of usage of the processor exceeds approximately 90-95% of the amount of the processor.

8. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 5~~ Claim 2, and further comprising limiting the number of calls processed by the computer in response to determining that the number of the plurality of calls being processed by the computer exceeds approximately 50% of capacity of buffers of the softswitch for processing calls.

9. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein limiting the number of calls processed by the computer comprises accepting no additional calls processed by the computer.

10. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein limiting the number of calls processed by the computer comprises limiting the number of calls processed by the computer until the at least one ~~criteria~~ criterion associated with operation of the computer reaches an acceptable level.

11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein limiting the number of calls comprises accepting no additional calls until the at least one ~~criteria~~ criterion associated with operation of the computer reaches an acceptable level.

12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein ~~the computer comprises a memory and wherein~~ the acceptable level is an amount of usage of the memory that is 75-80% of the capacity of the memory.

13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein ~~the computer comprises a processor and wherein~~ the acceptable level is the amount of usage of the processor that is 90% of the capacity of the processor.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A system for call processing comprising:  
a computer having a processor and an associated memory;  
a softswitch operating on the computer for processing calls; and  
program code stored on the memory and operable to:  
monitor at least one criterion associated with the operation of the computer; and  
in response to determining that at least one criterion exceeds an acceptable level, limit  
additional calls processed by the softswitch until the at least one criterion reaches a desired level, wherein  
the at least one ~~criteria~~ criterion ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises the amount of usage of  
the processor, the amount of usage of the memory, ~~and the number of calls processed by the softswitch,~~ or  
any combination thereof at any given time.

16. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 415, wherein the softswitch comprises a plurality of  
signaling subsystems and wherein the at least one ~~criteria~~ criterion ~~is selected from the group consisting~~  
~~of the amount of usage of the processor, the amount of usage of the memory, and~~ comprises the number  
of calls processed by at least one of the plurality of signaling subsystems at any given time.

17-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 4715, wherein the program code is operable to limit  
~~limiting additional calls comprises limiting additional~~ calls in response to a determination ~~determining~~  
that the amount of usage of the processor exceeds 90-95% of the capacity of the processor.

21. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 4815, wherein the program code is operable to limit  
~~limiting additional calls comprises limiting additional~~ in response to a determination ~~determining~~ that the  
amount of usage of the memory exceeds 80-85% of the capacity of the memory.

22-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A system for call processing comprising:  
a computer adapted to receive one or more calls, the computer including:  
a central processing system;  
a memory in communication with the central processing system;  
a softswitch module operating on the computer and adapted to perform processing  
operations on the one or more calls; and  
an overload prevention module adapted to monitor at least one criterion associated with operation  
of the computer and limit the number of calls processed by the computer based on the monitoring,  
wherein the criterion comprises the amount of usage of at least a portion of the processing  
system, the amount of usage of the memory, the number of calls processed by the softswitch, or any  
combination thereof.
28. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein the overload prevention module is adapted to block  
additional calls from being processed by the computer in response to a determination that the criterion  
exceeds an acceptable level.
29. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the criterion is usage of the memory and the acceptable  
level is 80-85% of the capacity of the memory.
30. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the criterion is usage of at least a portion of the  
processing system and the acceptable level is 90-95% of the capacity of the processing system.
31. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein the overload prevention module is adapted to permit  
processing of additional calls in response to a determination that the criterion reaches an acceptable return  
level.
32. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the criterion is usage of the memory and the acceptable  
return level is 75-80% of the capacity of the memory.
33. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the criterion is usage of at least a portion of the  
processing system and the acceptable return level is 85-90% of the capacity of the processing system.